during the year 1985 in mines resulting in deaths and injuries to mine workers are ag given in the table below:—

No. of fatal accidents	No. of persons killed	No. of accidents leading to serious bodily injury	No. of persons seriously injured
245	277	1,399	1,455

The Mines Act, 1952 was amended with effect from 31st May, 1984, according to which injury is categorised as 'reportable injury' an<i 'serious bodily injury'. Reportable injury involves all injuries other than serious bodily injuries where there is enforced absence of the injured person from work for a period of 72 hours or more. Serious bodily injury includes any injury which results in permanent loss of any part or section of a body, permanent loss or injury to the sight or hearing or injury resulting in permanent physical incapacity or fracture of any bone or any one or more joints °r bones of any phalange of hand or foot.

Consequent on the amendment of the Mines Act, 1952, the Coal Mines Regulations, 1957 and the Metallife-Mines Regulations, 1961 were amended in July, 1985. Important provisions relating to safety covered by these amendments are:—

(1) Specifying the duties of the officials above the rank of managers, who for the purposes of the Mines Act are nominated as agents;

(2) Requiring each mine to prepare *en* emergency plan f°r use in time of emergency;

<3) Supply and use of self-rescuer has been made obligatory in gassy coal mines of third degree.

Export of *long* staple raw cotton

959. SHRI O. J. JOSEPH: SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE; DR. R. K. PODDAR:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state; *m.*

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to allow private export of long staple raw cotton;

(b) if so, at what level the decision in this regard was taken; and

(c) what are the reasons for such a change jn the policy decision for and what will be its impact on the Cotton Corporation of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) to (c) After reviewing the cotton supply and demand situation in the country, Government have released a substantial quantity for export during the current cotton "season. The private trade has also been allocated some quantity with a view to boosting cotton export. Sufficient quantity of cotton has also been released for export in favour of Cotton Corporation of India.

Symposium on plantation crops

960. SHRI SHANTIMOY GHOSH: SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the deliberations of a symposium on plantation crops held in Delhi wherein it was stated that by the year 2000 A-D. India will be forced to import tea for domestic consumption; and

(b) if so, what ig Government's reaction thereto?